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Ocean Trade and Shipping. By Douglas Owen. Cambridge Naval & Military Series. ix and 277 pp. Map, index. University Press, Cambridge; G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1914. 10s. 6d. 9 x 6.

This book is an attempt to cover for college students the whole field of "trade and shipping" as an Englishman conceives them. The field is pretty well stretched, too, for some of the students to whom the author is a lecturer are prospective naval officers and are expected to know about the ships' papers in war as well as in peace. There is also a full fourth of the book devoted to Lloyd's and insurance.

The first part of the book, dealing with ports, port competition, port construction, and the influence of natural factors on their construction and use, is most likely to be of interest to geographers. This book with its 71 short chapters ranging from Ports to Passenger List and the Insurance of War Risks is the first volume to which one should turn who wishes light on the operations of ships and shipping. It is well indexed and contains a reproduction of a typical page of Lloyd's register, a bill of lading, and a charter party.

The author, who has previously written a book on docks, is a master of the facts about ship operation, and he also is one of the few who writes with mastery of traffic and rates. His six-page discussion of "shipping rings and rebates" is an excellent short presentation, but the discussion of Mr. Morgan's International Mercantile Marine seems to be needlessly academic for one whose experience had brought him so close to the facts.

J. RUSSELL SMITH.

Rubber and Rubber Planting. By R. H. Lock. xi and 245 pp. Ills., index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y., 1913. \$1.50. 7½ x 5.

A comprehensive and at the same time a concise account of the rubber industry, intended to advance the intelligent cultivation of the trees and the harvesting of the product. Considerable emphasis is laid on the physiology of latex production. A knowledge of this ought to help the planter to avoid injury to his crop and to prevent a diminution of the yield. Planting operations in all the many phases and protective measures against pests and diseases round out the presentation. Brief chapters on the chemistry of india-rubber and manufacture of rubber goods end the volume. The book, while it makes a special appeal to manufacturers and planters, would be a proper and valuable addition to any reference library on commercial and industrial geography.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

Coconut Cultivation and Plantation Machinery. By H. L. Coghlan and J. W. Hinchley. x and 128 pp. Ills., index. Crosby Lockwood & Son, London, 1914. 7 x 5.

This is largely the experiences of a manager of Malayan estates and is intended to supply the planter with a guide for the various stages of the coconut industry. It includes, besides the discussion pertaining to the raising of the trees, such as the soil, its preparation, seed nuts, pests and cultivation, many valuable suggestions concerning the marketing and possibilities of manufacturing of the crop as well as catch crops which will yield a revenue during the years of growth of the trees. Many tables and estimates are inserted to guide the planter, and a review of the industry in the West Indies yields a broader view of the field and conditions.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

The Fertility of the Soil. By E. J. Russell. Series: Cambridge Manuals of Science, etc. 128 pp. Ills., index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. 6½ x 5.

Beginning with a history of the formation of the soil, the author proceeds to a consideration of the formation of plant food in the soil; soil fertility; and the six requirements necessary for the best plant growth, that is, water, air, temperature, food, root room, and absence of harmful factors, each of these topics being discussed briefly. He also considers the various types of soils, medieval farm practice, the general bearing on the fertility of the soil of modern agricultural systems, the limit of the productiveness of soils and